National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Headquarters

Washington, DC 20546-0001



May 3, 2004

Reply to Attn of:

GG

TO:

Distribution

FROM:

G/General Counsel

SUBJECT:

Blanket Determination Regarding Attendance at the Space Flight Awareness

(SFA) Supplier Event, May 3-5, 2004

On May 3-5, 2004, a Space Flight Awareness event will be held at the Kennedy Space Center's Saturn V Center, Cape Canaveral, Florida, to celebrate the contributions of the dedicated men and women in the NASA space program. This event will also recognize 125 supplier awardees from across the United States and their guests. In conjunction with this event, United Space Alliance will sponsor a dinner and a reception for the honorees. It has been determined to be in the best interest of the Government for those NASA employees who are invited to this event to attend in their official capacities and as representatives of NASA.

The event will be a widely attended gathering of approximately 300 persons, which includes approximately 50 NASA employees. This event is part of NASA's ongoing motivation program that recognizes, through the SFA Program, outstanding employees from both government and industry who have performed exemplary work in support of our Nation's space program. The associated dinner will be widely attended by approximately 400 persons, including senior officials and NASA and contractor honorees. During the evening senior NASA management will address the gathering and present awards to the honorees. The cost, which includes all food and beverages, is \$70 per person. The cost of the associated reception is approximately \$11 per person. I find that these events meet the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 CFR § 2635.204(g). Consequently, I conclude that NASA's interest in its employees attending this event outweighs any concern that free attendance may, or may appear to, improperly influence any NASA personnel in the performance of their official duties.

Accordingly, NASA invitees and their spouses or guests may attend the event without charge.

Paul G. Pastorek